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SECOND CORRECTED COPY (SUBJECT)

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TAGS: PFOR, MT, CB, UN, US, CH, CI, KN, KS

SUBJ: MALTESE RELEATIONS WITH CAMBODIA, NORTH VIETNAM
AND VIET CONG

REF: VALLETTA 1830

1. SUMMARY: IN A STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT AND RESPONSES
TO OPPOSITION QUESTIONS OCTOBER 10, PRIME MINISTER
MINTOFF LAID OUT GOM POLICY ON RECOGNITION AND DIPLO-
MATIC RELATIONS, USING RECENT RECOGNITION OF CAMBODIA, DRV,
AND PRG AS PRINCIPAL EXAMPLES AND WITH REFERENCES
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TO KOREA, CHINA AND CHILE.

2. ACCORDING TIMES OF MALTA (IND-CONS) MINTOFF SAID
DECISION ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SIHANOUK
GOVERNMENT (EFFECTIVE AUG 27, 1973) TAKEN AFTER VISIT
TO CHINA BY GOM DEL EARLIER THIS YEAR (VALLETTA 1171)
AND WITH VIET CONG (EFFECTIVE SEPT 8, 1973) AT ALGIERS
NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. RECOGNITION OF DRV (EFFECTIVE
SEPT 20, 1973) BEING FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSIONS ON WHAT FORM
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WILL TAKE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO OPPOSITION QUESTIONS, P.M. SAID
MEMBERSHIP IN UN NOT CRITERION FOR FORMAL RELATIONS. ISRAEL
HAD OPPOSED EAST GERMANY CLAIMING IT HAD NOT PAID WAR
REPARATIONS. MALTA COULD NOT HAVE RECOGNIZED WEST GERMANY
IF UN MEMBERSHIP ESSENTIAL. GOM HAD CHOSEN SIHANOUK RATHER
THAN LON NOL BECAUSE THE FORMER REPRESENTS THE PEOPLE AND
CONTROLS NINETY PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY. CAMBODIA NEEDS
MALTA'S HELP AND IN FUTURE WILL REPAY A UNDREDFOLD. GOM
RECOGNIZED NORTH KOREA, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS NOT A UN MEMBER.
GOM RECOGNIZED PRC, WHILE PREVIOUS GOM HAD RECOGNIZED ROC.
MALTESE PEOPLE CAN NOW DECIDE WHICH WAS WISER.

4. ANSWERING QUESTIONS ON LEGITIMACY OF VIET CONG, MINTOFF
SAID GOM BELIEVES PRG IS TRUE REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH VIET
NAM. WHEN IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT THIEU HAD BEEN ELECTED,
MINTOFF ANSWERED THAT EVEN IN MALTA A PARTY (NATIONALISTS)
WHICH WON ELECTION DID NOT ALWAYS REPRESENT THE PEOPLE.
WHETHER GOM SHOULD HAVE WAITED UNTIL END OF CIVIL WAR IS
MATTER OF OPINION, BUT ONE SHOULD "GIVE EXPRESSION TO ACT
OF SOLIDARITY." THERE IS ALSO CIVIL WAR IN CHILE. GOM
WILL NEVER RECOGNIZE PRESENT CHILEAN GOVERNMENT, BUT IF A
PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT IS ESTABLISHED IN CHILE, GOM WILL
GIVE IT IMMEDIATE RECOGNITION.

5. MINTOFF SIDESTEPED OPPOSITION QUESTION ON WHAT MALTESE
INTERESTS WERE SERVED BY RECOGNITION OF SIHANOUK
GOVERNMENT AND PRG.

6. COMMENT: AS NEW AND FORMAL MEMBER OF NON-ALIGNED
GROUP AND BECAUSE OF CERTAIN OBLIGATION TO PRC FOR ITS
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AID PROGRAM AND OTHER ASSISTANCE, GOM ACTIONS NOT SURPRISING.
WE CAN EXPECT THAT MINTOFF WILL TAKE SIMILAR MOVES IN
FUTURE, AND GENERALLY TAKE POSITIONS ALONG LINES OF NON-
ALIGNED COUNTRIES ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, TO EXTENT THERE
IS A NON-ALIGNED POSITION. MINTOFF OBVIOUSLY GIVES
LITTLE WEIGHT IF ANY TO WESTERN ATTITUDES IN CARRYING
OUT HIS HIGHLY FLEXIBLE FOREIGN POLICY.

7. NATIONALISTS PERFORMED UNUSUALLY WELL IN THIS
DEBATE, ASKING POINTED QUESTIONS THAT CLEARLY PROVOKED
MINTOFF TO SAY MORE THAN HE INTENDED.
GETZ

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